

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article including a liquid-permeable topsheet, a liquid-impermeable backsheet and a liquid-retentive absorbent core having side portions interposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent article being substantially vertically elongated and having an upstanding gather,

wherein said topsheet has a liquid shut-off region in a linear shape over the longitudinal direction, which prevents liquid migration within said topsheet, and said liquid shut-off region is located at an area outside the periphery of said absorbent core and is formed independent of a joined section between said topsheet and a sheet material for forming said upstanding gather,

wherein the sheet material for forming the upstanding gather is disposed inward of the diaper from each side edge in the longitudinal direction of the diaper,

wherein a basal end of the upstanding gather is formed by joining the sheet material to an upper part of each side portion of the liquid-retentive absorbent core, and

wherein said topsheet extends outward beyond a basal end of said upstanding gather, at least a part of an extended section of said topsheet is joined to said backsheet, and said liquid shut-off region is located on the extended section of said topsheet.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said topsheet comprises a thermally fusible material, and said liquid shut-off region is formed by melting said thermally fusible material.

4. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 3, wherein said topsheet is not thermally bonded to other sheet materials at said liquid shut-off region.

5. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein said liquid shut-off region is located over the widthwise direction of said absorbent article at both or one of the longitudinal end portions of said absorbent article.

6. (**Currently Amended**) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said article does not have ~~said~~ a waist upstanding gather, as said upstanding gather, at both or one of the longitudinal end portions of said article, and said liquid shut-off region is located over the widthwise direction of said article at the longitudinal end portion (s) where ~~said~~ the waist upstanding gather is not located.

*Reply Under 37 CFR § 1.111
To Office Action of November 12, 2004*

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7. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an absorbent article including a liquid permeable topsheet, a liquid impermeable backsheet and a liquid-retentive absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said topsheet having a liquid shut-off region in a linear shape for preventing liquid migration within said topsheet, said method comprising preliminarily forming said liquid shut-off region at said topsheet and then arranging said topsheet at a predetermined location of said absorbent article, and said shut-off region being formed at an area outside the periphery of said absorbent core.